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FEDERAL HUNTERS CONTROL PREDATORY ANIMALS IN ALASKA

Federal predatory-animal hunters are moving their traps, guns, and airplanes into the Territory of Alaska.

Dorr D. Green, chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Predator and Rodent Control, stated today that it is the first large-scale operation by his men in Alaska's history.

Targets of the new Alaska predator control project are the bands of wolves and coyotes which have been decimating the Territory's reindeer, mountain sheep, moose, caribous, and fur animals.

Because of increasing losses to predatory animals during the past several years, Alaska's citizens have steadily demanded control of the wolves and coyotes. But lack of funds has limited Federal predator control work in the Territory to one full-time Fish and Wildlife Service hunter, employed in cooperation with the Indian Service in 1946 and 1947. Travel difficulties, moreover, made it impossible for the hunter to cover a great deal of territory. Congress appropriated \$100,000 for the new project during the current fiscal year.

Under the new, large-scale program, Mr. Green explained that airplanes will be used to transport hunters to isolated regions inaccessible by other means of transportation, and for hunting wolves and coyotes from the air.

He also said that the Fish and Wildlife Service has developed new methods of predator control by which predatory animals are selectively taken, without endangering valuable game and fur animals.

Headquarters for the Alaska predator control program will be in Anchorage, where District Agent Maurice W. Kelly is now in charge. He was recently transferred to the Territory from Denver, Colorado, where he headed similar Federal activities. Hosea R. Sarber, stationed in Petersburg, is his principal assistant. Other hunters will be located in strategic areas throughout the rest of Alaska,

The entire work will be financed by Federal appropriations. There are no sources of cooperative funds in Alaska for predator control work, such as exist in the continental United States.

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